Birdstrike Identification

The Smithsonian Bird Collection has more than 600,000 specimens representing 85% of known bird species and serves as the world's best resource for birdstrike identification.

- For more than 40 years, the Smithsonian Institution has been identifying birds that are struck by aircraft using the vast museum collections, microscopic expertise, and specialized experience to identify birds from feather fragments.
- Nearly 3,500 birdstrike cases were identified in 2007 for FAA and USAF – the first step in birdstrike prevention.

- The Smithsonian maintains birdstrike records; files and stores evidence for 2 years; reports identifications to Safety Offices and the National FAA Wildlife Strike Database; and represents the *world's only full-time birdstrike identification lab*.

BIRDSTRIKE EVIDENCE COLLECTING

Birdstrike collecting kits such as this one are maintained in the aircraft issues of the training squadrons. Mx personnel will collect and swab remains for the Wildlife Mgt office on base.

Aviation Safety Officers will enter BASH report into WESS and will forward a copy to the NASCC BASH Office for processing.

www.safetycenter.navy.mil/aviation/operations/bash

Feather evidence

Feather evidence consists of everything from whole feathers to minute samples of blood and tissue wiped from the aircraft.

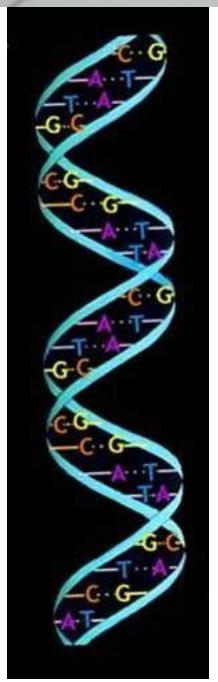
•If whole birds are found, remove whole feathers from the breast, back, wings and tail and send for identification.

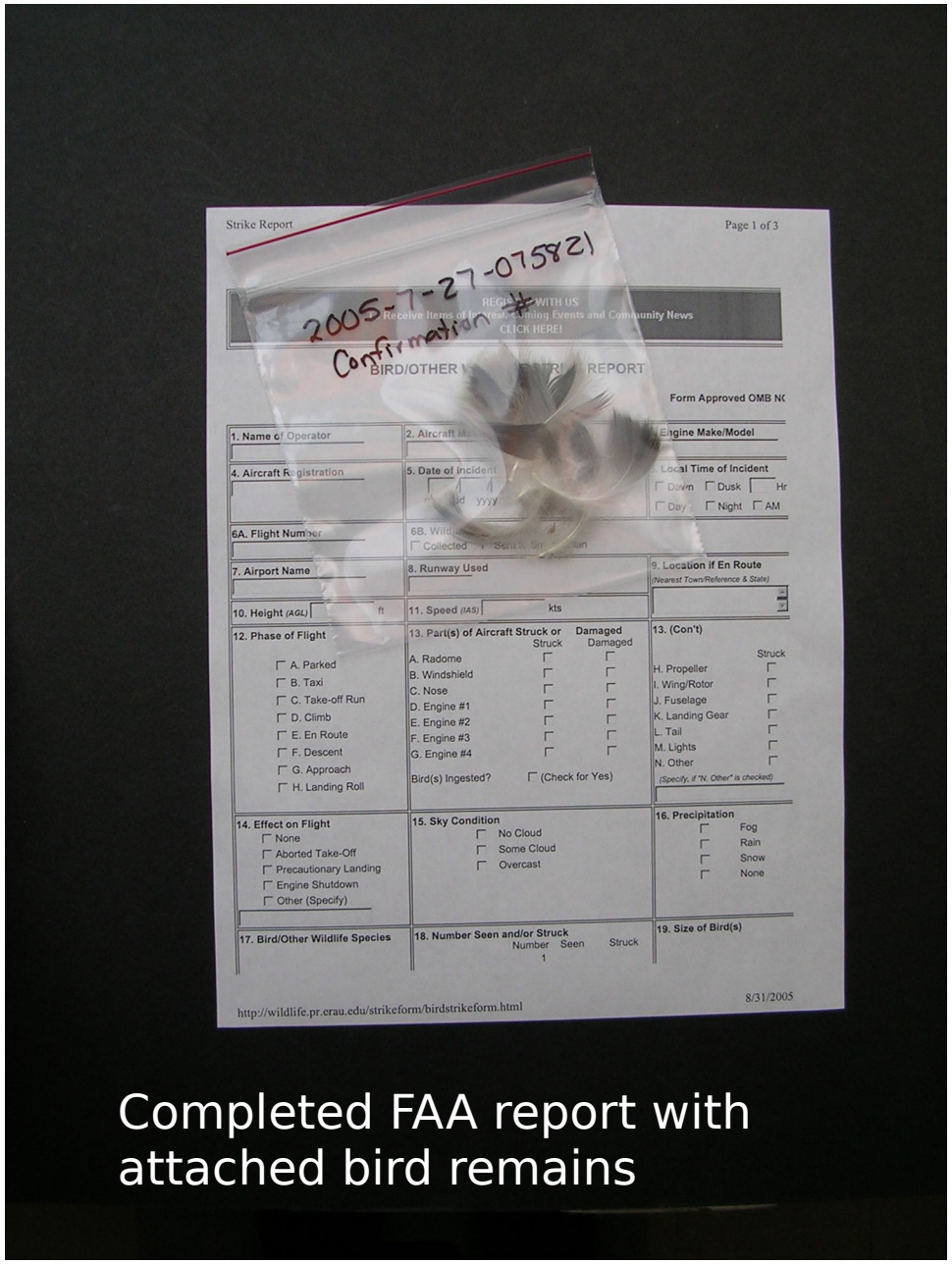
•If blood/tissue is present, spray with **alcohol** (to prevent mold) and wipe the impact area with a papertowel. Place the papertowel in a ziplock bag and send for identification, or use FTA® DNA collecting card

•Small feather bits that are in the papertowel are examined microscopically or using DNA for species

DNA COLLECTING SUPPLIES

Sometime DNA analysis is used to identify birdstrikes. If blood or tissue is present on the aircraft it is best to collect the remains using special DNA ‘fixing’ cards. Simply press the foam tipped applicator onto the blood sample and then onto the card. Allow to air dry for 30 minutes and send the sample to the Smithsonian for identification. If fixing cards are not available, alcohol will suffice to preserve DNA and prevent mold growth.





Completed FAA report with attached bird remains

The NASCC BASH office will mail the Birdstrike remains and completed WESS Navy form to:

<u>Smithsonian Institution</u>

Feather ID Lab

MRC 116, E-600

PO Box 37012

Washington, DC 20013-7012

Foreign Shipments:

Contact Feather Lab for paperwork

dovec@si.edu

202-633-0787

Smithsonian Institution